

9 May 1960

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Briefing Sheet for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for the Operations Deputies Meeting, Tuesday, 10 May 1960, Agenda Item No. 7.

J.C.S. 1907/266

Subject: Berlin Contingency Planning (U)

Background: - On 28 Mar 60, a SecDef memo included the following statement: "Mr. Khrushchev has stated that unless a satisfactory agreement on Berlin is reached at the Summit meeting, he will proceed to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany." Further, the SecDef requested the views of the JCS on the following questions related to the above situation and to the Joint Study on Berlin access.

a. Will the U.S. military posture in mid-summer of 1960 be such as to permit implementation of the contingency plans, accepting and being prepared for the risk of general war?

b. What actions are recommended to be taken relating to the Berlin Garrison and the U.S. military interests in Berlin in the event the USSR announces its firm intention to sign a separate peace treaty?

- The Joint Study referred to above was prepared by State-Defense-JCS-CIA, at the direction of the President. The paper outlines the preparatory and supporting political and military actions that are considered necessary for any of the alternative uses of force. It then indicates for each of the four alternatives the specific political and military actions required, political limitations that should be observed and probable Soviet and Free World reactions.

Current Paper: - The current paper contains a proposed memorandum to SecDef stating that:

a. The JCS agree that the U.S. military posture in mid-summer of 1960 will permit the implementation of contingency plans, and the acceptance of the risk of general war. Further, it is pointed out that when it becomes evident that implementation of such plans is inevitable, certain political, economic, psychological and military measures should be taken to convince the USSR that the U.S. is willing to accept the risk of general war.

b. There are no additional military actions to be taken relating to the Berlin Garrison and U.S. military interests in Berlin, other than those that are currently foreseen in tripartite and unilateral plans.

Service Comments: - It is expected that the Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force will support the paper as written. The Army is expected to propose certain modifications of a more substantive nature.

Comments and Recommendations: - The International Policy Branch, J-5, recommends that the Chairman, JCS, support the paper as written.

Opinion as to Recommendations: -

Director, J-5 _____ F (Concurs) (~~Non-concurs~~)

Director, Joint Staff _____ (Concurs) (Non-concurs)

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